AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 11, and 14, and amend claims 1, 9, 12, 16, and 17, as indicated in the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing SMS messages to a receiving party associated with a plurality of devices, the method comprising:

receiving a SMS message for a first device of the plurality of devices, wherein the SMS message originated at a calling device associated with a calling party;

identifying a second device of the plurality of devices as a preferred device for receiving the SMS message based on information stored by the receiving party;

formatting the SMS message according to characteristics of the preferred device, wherein the formatted message has a format other than SMS; and

sending the formatted message to the preferred device.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to an e-mail address.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to an instant messenger client.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message as a voice message to a phone.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to digital companion client software.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, comprising:

storing messages in a database when the preferred device is not available to receive messages.

8.   (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing SMS messages to a user associated with a plurality of devices, comprising:

a database for storing information identifying each device of the plurality of devices and identifying a first device of the plurality of devices as a preferred device;

a gateway server for receiving a SMS message identifying a second device of the plurality of devices, wherein the SMS message originated at a calling device associated with a calling party;

a server function for identifying the preferred device in response to receiving the

SMS message, the preferred device being different than the second device; and

a SMS server for sending the SMS message to the preferred device, wherein the

SMS server comprises a server that formats the SMS message in accordance with

characteristics of the preferred device before sending the message to the preferred

device, the formatted message having a format other than SMS.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the SMS server

comprises a server that stores messages to a database when the preferred device is

not available to receive messages.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing SMS messages to a user

associated with a plurality of devices, comprising:

means for storing a specification of a preferred device;

means for receiving a SMS message identifying one device of the plurality of

devices, wherein the SMS message originated at a calling device associated with a

calling party;

means for selecting the preferred device in response to receiving the SMS

message, the preferred device being different than the identified one device; and

means for sending the SMS message to the preferred device, wherein the means for sending the SMS message comprises means for formatting the SMS message in accordance with characteristics of the preferred device before sending the message to the preferred device, the formatted message having a format other than SMS.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the means for sending the SMS message comprises means for storing messages to a database when the preferred device is not available to receive messages.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a SMS message including information identifying a first destination device, wherein the SMS message originated at a calling device associated with a calling party;

identifying a second destination device in response to receiving the SMS message, the second destination device being different than the first destination device;

formatting the SMS message based on the second destination device, wherein the formatted message has a format other than SMS; and

sending the formatted SMS message to the second destination device.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the first destination device and the second destination device are associated with a receiving party, and wherein the identifying includes:

identifying the second destination device based on a profile associated with the receiving party.